NUMB. CLXXV.

The SPECTATOR.

Proximus à tectis ignis defenditur ægre:—Ov. Rem. Am.

Thurſday, September 20. 1711.

I Shall this Day entertain my Readers with two or three Letters I have receiv'd from my Correſpondents: The firſt diſcovers to me a Species of Females which have hitherto eſcaped my Notice, and is as follows.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Am a young Gentleman of a competent Fortune, and a ſufficient Taſte of Learning, to ſpend five or ſix Hours every Day very agreeably among my Books. That I might have nothing to divert me from my Studies, and to avoid the Noiſes of Coaches and Chair-men, I have taken Lodgings in a very narrow Street, not far from *Whitehall*; but it is my Misfortune to be ſo poſted, that my Lodgings are directly oppoſite to thoſe of a *Jezebel*. You are to know, Sir, that a *Jezebel* (ſo called by the Neighbourhood from diſplaying her pernicious Charms at her Window) appears conſtantly dreſs'd at her Saſh, and has a thouſand little Tricks and Fooleries to attract the Eyes of all the idle young Fellows in the Neighbourhood. I have ſeen more than ſix Perſons at once from their ſeveral Windows obſerving the *Jezebel* I am now complaining of. I at firſt looked on her my ſelf with the higheſt Contempt, could divert my ſelf with her Airs for half an Hour, and afterwards take up my *Plutarch* with great Tranquility of Mind; but was a little vexed to find that in leſs than a Month ſhe had conſiderably ſtoln upon my Time, ſo that I reſolved to look at her no more. But the *Jezebel*, who, as I ſuppoſe, might think it a diminution to her Honour, to have the number of her Gazers leſſen'd, reſolv'd not to part with me ſo, and begun to play ſo many new Tricks at her Window, that it was impoſſible for me to forbear obſerving her. I verily believe ſhe put her ſelf to the Expence of a new Wax Baby on purpoſe to plague me; ſhe uſed to dandle and play with this Figure as impertinently as if it had been a real Child: Sometimes ſhe would let fall a Glove or a Pin Cuſhion in the Street, and ſhut or open her Caſement three or four times in a Minute. When I had almoſt wean'd my ſelf from this, ſhe came in her Shift Sleeves, and dreſs'd at the Window. I had no way left but to let down my Curtains, which I ſubmitted to, though it conſiderably darkned my Room, and was pleaſed to think that I had at laſt got the better of her; but was ſurpriz'd the next Morning to hear her talking out of her Window quite croſs the Street, with another Woman that lodges over me: I am ſince informed, that ſhe made her a Viſit, and got acquainted with her within three Hours after the fall of my Window Curtains.

'Sir, I am plagued every moment in the Day one way or other in my own Chambers, and the *Jezebel* has the Satisfaction to know, that, tho' I am not looking at her, I am liſt'ning to her impertinent Dialogues that paſs over my Head. I would immediately change my Lodgings, but that I think it might look like a plain Confeſſion that I am conquer'd; and beſides this, I am told that moſt Quarters of the Town are infeſted with theſe Creatures. If they are ſo, I am ſure 'tis ſuch an Abuſe, as a Lover of Learning and Silence ought to take notice of.

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.

I am afraid by ſome Lines in this Letter that my young Student is touched with a Diſtemper which he hardly ſeems to dream of, and is too far gone in it to receive Advice. However, I ſhall Animadvert in due time on the Abuſe which he mentions, having my ſelf obſerv'd a Neſt of *Jezebels* near the *Temple*, who make it their Diverſion to draw up the Eyes of young Templars, that at the ſame time they may ſee them ſtumble in an unlucky Gutter which runs under the Window.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Have lately read the Concluſion of your forty ſeventh Speculation upon *Butts* with great Pleaſure, and have ever ſince been throughly perſwaded that one of thoſe Gentlemen is extreamly neceſſary to enliven Converſation. I had an Entertainment laſt Week upon the Water for a Lady to whom I make my Addreſſes, with ſeveral of our Friends of both Sexes. To divert the Company in general, and to ſhow my Miſtreſs in particular my Genius for Raillery, I took one of the moſt celebrated *Butts* in Town along with me. It is with the utmoſt Shame and Confuſion that I muſt acquaint you with the ſequel of my Adventure: As ſoon as we were got into the Boat I played a Sentence or two at my *Butt* which I thought very ſmart, when my ill Genius, who I verily believe inſpired him purely for my Deſtruction, ſuggeſted to him ſuch a Reply, as got all the Laughter on his ſide. I was daſhed at ſo unexpected a turn, which the *Butt* perceiving, reſolved not to let me recover my ſelf, and purſuing his Victory, rallied and toſſed me in a moſt unmerciful and barbarous manner 'till we came to *Chelſea*. I had ſome ſmall Succeſs while we were eating Cheeſe-Cakes; but coming Home he renew'd his Attacks with his former

'good

' good Fortune, and equal Diverſion to the whole ' Company. In ſhort, Sir, I muſt ingenuouſly own ' that I was never ſo handled in all my Life; and to ' compleat my Misfortune, I am ſince told that the ' *Butt*, flushed with his late Victory, has made a Vi- ' ſit or two to the dear Object of my Wiſhes, ſo ' that I am at once in danger of loſing all my Pre- ' tenſions to Wit, and my Miſtreſs in the Bargain. ' This, Sir, is a true Account of my preſent Trou- ' bles, which you are the more obliged to aſſiſt me ' in, as you were your ſelf in a great meaſure the ' Cauſe of them, by recommending to us an In- ' ſtrument, and not inſtructing us at the ſame time ' how to play upon it.

' I have been thinking whether it might not be ' highly convenient, that all *Butts* ſhould wear ' an Inſcription affixed to ſome Part of their Bodies, ' ſhewing on which ſide they are to be come at, ' and that if any of them are Perſons of unequal ' Tempers, there ſhould be ſome Method taken to ' inform the World at what Time it is ſafe to at- ' tack them, and when you had beſt let them alone. ' But ſubmitting theſe Matters to your more ſeri- ' ous Conſideration,

I am, SIR,

Yours, &c.

I have, indeed, ſeen and heard of ſeveral young Gentlemen under the ſame Misfortune with my preſent Correſpondent. The beſt Rule I can lay down for them to avoid the like Calamities for the future, is throughly to conſider not only *Whether their Companions are weak*, but *Whether themſelves are Wits.*

The following Letter comes to me from *Exeter*, and being credibly informed that what it contains is Matter of Fact, I ſhall give it my Reader as it was ſent me.

Mr. SPECTATOR, *Exeter, Sept.* 7.

' YOU were pleas'd in a late Speculation to take notice of the Inconvenience we lie under in ' the Country, in not being able to keep pace with ' the Faſhion; but there is another Misfortune which ' we are ſubject to, and is no leſs grievous than ' the former, which has hitherto eſcaped your Ob- ' ſervation. I mean the having things palmed upon ' us for *London* Faſhions, which were never once ' heard of there.

' A Lady of this Place had ſome time ſince a Box ' of the neweſt Ribbons ſent down by the Coach: ' Whether it was her own malicious Invention, or ' the Wantonneſs of a *London* Milliner, I am not able ' to inform you; but, among the reſt, there was ' one Cherry-colonred Ribbon, conſiſting of about ' half a Dozen Yards, made up in the Figure of a ' Small Head-dreſs. The foreſaid Lady had the Af- ' ſurance to affirm, amidſt a Circle of Female In- ' quiſitors, who were preſent at the opening of the ' Box, that this was the neweſt Faſhion worn ' at Court. Accordingly the next *Sunday* we had ' ſeveral Females, who came to Church with their ' Heads dreſs'd wholly in Ribbons, and looked like ' ſo many Victims ready to be Sacrificed. This is ' ſtill a reigning Mode among us. At the ſame ' time we have a Sett of Gentlemen, who take the ' Liberty to appear in all Publick Places without ' any Buttons to their Coats, which they ſupply ' with ſeveral little Silver Haſps; tho' our freſheſt ' Advices from *London* make no mention of any ' ſuch Faſhion; and we are ſomething ſhy of affor- ' ing Matter to the Button-makers for a ſecond ' Petition.

' What I would humbly propoſe to the Publick is, ' that there may be a Society erected in *London*, to ' conſiſt of the moſt skilful Perſons of both Sexes, ' for the *Inſpection of Modes and Faſhions*; and that ' hereafter no Perſon or Perſons ſhall preſume to ' appear ſingularly habited in any Part of the Coun- ' try, without a Teſtimonial from the foreſaid So- ' ciety that their Dreſs is anſwerable to the Mode ' at *London*. By this means, Sir, we ſhall know a ' little where about we are.

' If you could bring this Matter to bear, you ' would very much oblige great Numbers of your ' Country Friends, among the reſt,

Your very Humble Servant,

Jack Modiſh.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane on Saturday next, being the 22d of this Inſtant September, will be preſented a Comedy called the Amorous Widow, or the Wanton Wife. The Part of Lovemore by Mr. Wilks, the Wanton Wife by Mrs. Oldfield, Barnaby Brittle by Mr. Dogget, Sir Peter Pride Mr. Johnſon, Courtall Mr. Mills, Merryman Mr. Pinkethman, Clodpole Mr. Bullock, Jeffery Mr. Pack, Lady Pride Mrs. Willis, Amorous Widow Mrs. Powel, Philadelphia Mrs. Porter, Damaris Mrs. Bicknell, Prudence Mrs. Saunders.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

An Impartial View of the two late Parliaments, the Proceedings, and the Late Miniſtry, fully Juſtified. Together with the affairs of Convocation, wherein the Irregularities of the Lower House are expoſed, from their Original to this Preſent times; and a fair Comparison offer'd of, between the late Parliaments and the laſt Seſſion. Price 5 s. Printed for J. Baker in Pater-noſter Row.

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On a Sheet of Imperial Paper, the 5th Edition of The Young Accomptant's Remembrancer, directing him to find the proper Debtors and Creditors in the moſt uſual Tranſactions and Currences of Trade: With the Method of Ballancing Accompts, and Transferring them into a new Ledger. By Tho. Mercer of the Inner Temple. Sold by Mr. John Lyons in Philpot Lane near Fenchurch ſtreet; where carefully teaches a Scheme of Merchant's Accompts (by a new Method purpoſely compoſed by the ſaid Author to exemplify his Remembrancer.

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Incomparable Perfuming Drops for Handkerchiefs and all other Linnen Cloaths, Gloves, &c. being the moſt Excellent for that purpoſe in the Univerſe, for they Stain nothing that is perfumed with 'em, any more than fair Water, but are the moſt Delectable, Fragrant and Odoriferous Perfume in Nature, and good againſt all Diſeaſes of the Head and Brain: By their delicious Smell, they Comfort, Revive and Refreſh all the Senſes, Natural, Vital and Animal, enliven the Spirits, chear the Heart, and drive away Melancholy: They alſo Perfume Rooms, Beds, Preſſes, Drawers, Boxes, &c. making them ſmell ſurprizingly Fine and Odoriferous. They perfume the Hands excellently, are an extraordinary Scent for the Pocket; and, in ſhort, are ſo exceeding Pleaſant and Delightful, ſo admirably Curious and Delicate, and of ſuch general Uſe, that nothing in the World can compare with 'em. Sold only at Mr. Payn's Toyſhop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church yard near Cheapſide, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.

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